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A New Race of *Emberiza striolata*

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While rearranging the collections of Fringillidae in the Chicago Natural History Museum, I found, under *Fringillaria*, two specimens erroneously identified as *F. striolata* from the French Sudan. When they were removed to *Emberiza* and placed next to their nearest relative, *E. striolata sahari*, it was at once apparent that they were much darker and more chestnut than that form. When compared with specimens of *jebelmarrae*, the dark form of Darfur, they differed in being practically unstreaked above.

Since there is no available name for this dark, unstreaked population, it may be called :

Emberiza striolata sanghae subsp. nov.

Type — adult ♂ from Sangha, nr. Bandiagara, French Sudan (14°28' N, 3°17'W) ; collected by R. and L. Boulton, 14 Mar. 1934. Chicago Natural History Museum No. 96068.

Diagnosis much darker and more chestnut both above and below than *sahari* of the central Sahara. More chestnut than *jebelmarrae* of Darfur, and lacking the heavy dorsal streaking characteristic of that race. Size of type wing 79, tail 65, culmen 12.5, tarsus 17.5.

Distribution apparently confined to the Bandiagara region of southern French Sudan, possibly extending north to Timbuktu.

Discussion In north Africa *Emberiza striolata* ranges from the southern slopes of the Saharan Atlas in Algeria and Tunis south through many of the oases to Air and Zinder, east to Tibesti, Ennedi and Darfur, and west to Timbuktu and Bandiagara. Throughout this vast area, however, the breeding populations are widely scattered and the range is much more fragmented than the above description would indicate.

Topotypical *sahari* from Algeria is the palest of all populations ; the dorsal streaking is faint, and the dark streaking on the crown and breast

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of the males is narrow and shows little contrast with the gray background. At the opposite extreme is *jebelmarrae*; the back is russet brown with bold blackish streaking, the crown and breast are boldly streaked blackish on light gray, and the belly is a deeper rufous than in *sahari*. Typical *jebelmarrae* occurs only on the higher elevations of Jebel Marra. Specimens from the lowlands of northeastern Darfur are intermediate between *sahari* and *jebelmarrae* (cf. Lynes, 1924, *Ibis* : 681) , as are those from Ennedi, according to Niethammer (1955, *Bonn. Zool. Beitr.*, 6 : 74) . Specimens from Air and Zinder also show some approach to *jebelmarrae* in being darker than typical *sahari* and in the males having bolder streaking on crown and breast. The dorsal streaking is not well marked, however, and these populations are best kept in *sahari* (cf. Vaurie, 1959, *Bds. Pal. Fauna*, 1 : 685) .

In the extreme west of the species range in the French Sudan, *sanghae* is darker and more richly colored than even *jebelmarrae*, and the darker dorsal streaking is only faintly indicated. The pale edges to the feathers of the crown and breast are a dark, almost slate gray, and consequently the blackish streaks are not as apparent. Besides the type, there is a second specimen from Sangha which is marked ^y but it is evidently a young d^h just beginning its molt into adult plumage. This specimen is equally dark on the back and underparts, and the crown is chestnut with only faint indications of dark streaks.

Two females from Timbuktu are darker and more rufous on the upper parts than females from Air, but still appear closer to those populations of *sahari* than they are to *sanghae*. This is surprising since Timbuktu lies only some 160 miles north of Sangha while Zinder and Air are some 800 miles to the east. Possibly adult males from Timbuktu would show more resemblance to *sanghae*.

Material examined: *sanghae*, 1 ♂ (type) 1 im.♂, Sangha (CNHM); *sahari*. 3 ♂ 4 ♀ Algeria (CNHM); 2 ♀ Timbuktu (BM); 2♂ 3 ♀ Aïr and Zinder (AMNH); *sahari* ⋈ *jebelmarrae*: 2 ♂ 1 ♀ Melit and Jebel Meidol (BM); *jebelmarrae*: 3 ♂ 2 ♀ Jebel Marra (BM).

Praed and Grant (1955, *Bds. E., N.E. Afr.* 2 : 1097) consider *jebelmarrae* a synonym of *saturation* of Abyssinia. I have not been able to examine specimens of *saturation* and use *jebelmarrae* without prejudice.

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